

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study for Callahan Creek in Wise County. This stream was identified on the 1998 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for the Aquatic Life Use measured by benthic macroinvertebrate samples. In 2004, the stream was listed for bacteria violations also.

The public meeting to present the draft TMDL report to address the benthic and bacteria impairments will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Apostolic Faith Church of God in Appalachia, Virginia. The church is located at 403 Callahan Avenue (Rt.78N) in Appalachia, Virginia. [Note: Should schools be closed due to snow on February 22, the meeting will be rescheduled. The rescheduled date will be posted on the DEQ web site and on signs in the watershed.]

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

Callahan Creek is in Wise County north of Appalachia, Virginia. The impairments include about 5.2 miles of stream. The lower 2 miles has both bacteria and benthic impairments and the upper 3 miles are listed for bacteria violations only. The upstream impairment ends just above Stonega at Possum Trot Hollow. The draft TMDL study identifies sediment and conductivity/total dissolved solids as the stressors for aquatic life problems. The draft study proposes reductions in sedimentation, conductivity/total dissolved solids and bacteria so that the stream can meet the water quality standards.

The public comment period for the draft report will end on **March 23, 2005**. After February 7, 2005, the draft study can be viewed from the DEQ website: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/homepage.html>. Address questions or information requests to Nancy T. Norton, P. E. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia 24212-1688, telephone (276) 676-4807, fax (276) 676-4899, or e-mail ntnorton@deq.virginia.state.gov.